

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An image processing method for a digital image, characterized in that interpolation signals between discrete original pixels used for calculating an output pixel value are calculated by an FIR digital filter using as an interpolation function a function obtained by composing a function based on a cubic convolution method and a function based on a bilinear method,

wherein said FIR filter uses as an interpolation function a function that is obtained by composing a part of the function based on the cubic convolution method and a part of the function based on the bilinear method and is asymmetric with respect to the right and left,

wherein the cubic convolution method is used for an area of $x \leq 0$, and the bilinear method is used for an area of $x > 0$.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) An image processing device for a digital image, characterized by comprising an FIR digital filter using as an interpolation function a function obtained by composing a function based on a cubic convolution method and a function based on a bilinear method for an interpolation signal between discrete original pixels used for calculating an output pixel value,

wherein said FIR filter uses as an interpolation function a function that is obtained by composing a part of the function based on the cubic convolution method and a part of the function based on the bilinear method and is asymmetric with respect to the right and left,

wherein the cubic convolution method is used for an area of $x \leq 0$, and the bilinear method is used for an area of $x > 0$.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The image processing method as claimed in claim 1 is for enlarging or reducing the digital image.

6. (Previously presented) The image processing device as claimed in claim 3 is for enlarging or reducing the digital image.

7. (Currently amended) An electronics apparatus for a digital image, characterized by comprising an FIR digital filter using as a function a right-and-left asymmetrical interpolating function obtained by composing a function based on a part of a cubic convolution method and a part of a bilinear method for an interpolation signal between discrete original pixels used for calculating an output pixel value,

wherein the cubic convolution method is used for an area of $x \leq 0$, and the bilinear method is used for an area of $x > 0$.

8. (Previously presented) The electronics apparatus as claimed in claim 7 is for enlarging or reducing the digital image.

9. (Previously presented) The image processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the degree of said FIR is a second order.

10. (Currently amended) ~~The image processing method as claimed in claim 1~~ An image processing method for a digital image, characterized in that interpolation signals between discrete original pixels used for calculating an output pixel value are calculated by an FIR digital filter using as an interpolation function a function obtained by composing a function based on a cubic convolution method and a function based on a bilinear method,

wherein said FIR filter uses as an interpolation function a function that is obtained by composing a part of the function based on the cubic convolution method and a part of the function based on the bilinear method and is asymmetric with respect to the right and left,

wherein the bilinear method is used for a left area of $x < 0$ and the cubic convolution method is used for a right area of $x \geq 0$.

11. (Previously presented) The image processing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein a boundary between said left and right areas is set to $x=0$.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The image processing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the degree of said FIR is a second order.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The image processing device as claimed in claim 3 An image processing device for a digital image, characterized by comprising an FIR digital filter using as an interpolation function a function obtained by composing a function based on a cubic convolution method and a function based on a bilinear method for an interpolation signal between discrete original pixels used for calculating an output pixel value,~~

wherein said FIR filter uses as an interpolation function a function that is obtained by composing a part of the function based on the cubic convolution method and a part of the function based on the bilinear method and is asymmetric with respect to the right and left,

wherein the bilinear method is used for a left area of $x < 0$ and the cubic convolution method is used for a right area of $x \geq 0$.

15. (Previously presented) The image processing device as claimed in claim 14, wherein a boundary between said left and right areas is set to $x=0$.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The electronics apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the degree of said FIR is a second order.

18. (Currently amended) The electronics apparatus as claimed in claim 7 An image processing device for a digital image, characterized by comprising an FIR digital filter using as an interpolation function a function obtained by composing a function based on a cubic convolution method and a function based on a bilinear method for an interpolation signal between discrete original pixels used for calculating an output pixel value,

wherein said FIR filter uses as an interpolation function a function that is obtained by composing a part of the function based on the cubic convolution method and a part of the function based on the bilinear method and is asymmetric with respect to the right and left,

wherein the bilinear method is used for a left area of $x < 0$ and the cubic convolution method is used for a right area of $x \geq 0$.

19. (Previously presented) The electronics apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein a boundary between said left and right areas is set to $x=0$.

20-26. (Canceled)

27. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 10 is for enlarging or reducing the digital image.

28. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the degree of said FIR is a second order.

29. (New) The image processing device as claimed in claim 14 is for enlarging or reducing the digital image.

30. (Previously presented) The image processing device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the degree of said FIR is a second order.

31. (New) The electronics apparatus as claimed in claim 18 is for enlarging or reducing the digital image.

32. (New) The electronics apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the degree of said FIR is a second order.